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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

FINLAND

1. The Committee considered the third periodic report of Finland on the rights covered by articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant (E/1994/104/Add.7) at its 37th, 38th and 40th meetings, held on 25 and 26 November 1996, and adopted, at its 51st meeting held on 4 December 1996, the following concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Finland for the submission of its report, which follows the Committee's guidelines regarding the form and contents of States parties' reports. The Committee welcomes the submission by Finland of comprehensive written answers to its list of issues and expresses its satisfaction at the frank and constructive dialogue established with the State party, through a delegation composed of experts. The Committee also notes with satisfaction the information submitted by the Government of Finland in a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.59/Rev.1), as well as the supplementary information on the implementation of articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant submitted in response to the Committee's request after the consideration of the second periodic report of Finland in December 1991 (E/1989/5/Add.10).

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee notes the generally high level of achievement by Finland of its obligations in respect of the protection of the rights set forth in the Covenant. In this regard, the Committee expresses its appreciation of the recent amendments which have been incorporated in the Constitution concerning the protection of certain economic, social and cultural rights of all persons under the State party's jurisdiction. The Committee also notes with satisfaction the existence and the activities of the Advisory Board on Human Rights Affairs, composed of representatives of various human rights organizations and of several ministries, and of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, who has competence in the field of human rights.
4. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to promote equality between men and women, such as the establishment of the Council of Equality, the Equality Ombudsman and the recent adoption of legislation requiring at least 40 per cent representation of both sexes in government appointed bodies at the national and local levels.
5. The Committee also welcomes the Government's policies and programmes aimed at creating new jobs and at helping the unemployed to join or return to the labour force, through vocational training programmes, particularly those aimed at young people.
6. The Committee notes with satisfaction the measures taken to protect and shelter the victims of domestic violence, in particular the activities deployed in this respect by the government-subsidized Union of Shelter Homes. The Committee also welcomes the recent criminalization of marital rape as a means to combat the phenomenon of violence against women.
7. The Committee notes with satisfaction the measures aimed at promoting the teaching of the Roma and Sami languages in schools and welcomes the possibility provided to the elected representatives of the Sami people to address the Parliament on issues affecting their interests.
8. The Committee notes that, despite the difficulties due to the economic recession, Finland regularly contributes, although at a reduced level, to programmes of international cooperation, thus potentially promoting the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in other countries.

C. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Covenant

9. The Committee notes that the economic recession facing Finland and the policies adopted to meet the convergence criteria for participating in the European Economic and Monetary Union have had significant consequences for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the Finnish population as a whole, and by vulnerable social groups in particular. In this regard, the Committee notes that the recent budgetary cuts in social expenditure, as well as economic restructuring and the decentralization of social service arrangements are factors which may affect the full implementation of the provisions of the Covenant. However, the Committee notes the Government's view that European Union membership has been a useful instrument towards fulfilling its economic policy goals, including those aimed at fighting unemployment.

D. Principal subjects of concern

10. The Committee notes that, although the provisions of the Covenant may be directly invoked before the courts or referred to by the courts, this has not yet been the case. In this respect, the Committee expresses concern that lawyers and judges may not be sufficiently aware of the rights enshrined in the Covenant.

11. The Committee is concerned that, although equality between men and women is established in the law, it is not fully achieved in practice, in particular in the field of equal remuneration, and that, in general, women continue to encounter more obstacles than men in advancing to higher professional positions.

12. While it notes with satisfaction the recent decrease in the percentage of the population who are unemployed, the Committee is still concerned that the level of unemployment remains high, especially among young people, immigrants and refugees.

13. Although it notes that collective agreements in some sectors of professional activity contain provisions for the determination of minimum wages, the Committee is concerned that no minimum wage is guaranteed by law.

14. The Committee expresses its concern that the major cuts in social security and other welfare expenditures have reduced the disposable incomes of single parents and young families with children, have affected the situation of persons without regular income under the Sickness Insurance Act, and have led to the cessation of adjustments to pensions and unemployment benefits.

15. The Committee expresses its concern at reports according to which members of the Roma minority have been discriminated against when decisions have been taken by some authorities in respect of the allocation of publicly-owned dwellings.

16. The Committee regrets the lack of official statistical data and other information with regard to problems such as domestic violence, child abuse, child pornography, child and adolescent suicide and alcohol abuse, the latter also affecting children and adolescents, which prevents both the authorities and the Committee from ascertaining the real extent of these problems.

17. The Committee expresses its concern at the recent increase in the school drop-out rate, which particularly affects children from economically disadvantaged groups and children belonging to minorities.

E. Suggestions and recommendations

18. The Committee recommends that specifically targeted training programmes be launched by the authorities to increase the awareness of judges and lawyers of the rights enshrined in the Covenant.

19. The Committee recommends that the Government intensify its efforts to ensure that equality between men and women, in particular with regard to employment and salary matters, is effective in practice.

20. The Committee urges that consideration be given to enacting legislation providing for minimum wages, and their periodical adjustment, so that protection be ensured also to workers who are not protected by sectoral collective agreements.

21. The Committee encourages the Government to take adequate measures to ensure that the reduction of the budgetary allocations for social welfare programmes does not result in the violation of the State party's obligations under the Covenant. The Committee particularly lays emphasis on the need to protect the rights of socially vulnerable groups, such as young families with children, refugees and elderly or unemployed persons.

22. The Committee draws the attention of the authorities to the need to eliminate discrimination of any kind in the exercise of the rights set forth in the Covenant, especially the right to housing.

23. The Committee encourages the Government to continue its efforts to combat the problems of alcoholism, domestic violence, child and adolescent suicide and child abuse and it recommends that statistical data be collected and that thorough and targeted studies be conducted on the extent, the causes and the consequences of such problems. The Committee particularly draws the attention of the authorities to the importance to be given to detection measures and preventive policies. It also stresses the need to ensure that specific and appropriate penal legislation be enacted and applied in order to combat child abuse and child pornography.

24. The Committee also draws the attention of the State party to the emerging problem of school drop-out, which mainly affects children coming from vulnerable social groups, such as economically disadvantaged children or children belonging to minorities. In this regard, the Committee recommends that specific measures be taken to ensure that these children can complete their studies to the extent of their academic capacities.

25. The Committee recommends that the concerns expressed in the present concluding observations, as well as the issues raised during the discussion of the third periodic report which remain unanswered, be addressed in the State party's fourth periodic report.

26. The Committee encourages the State party to widely disseminate the Concluding observations adopted by the Committee following the consideration of the State party's third periodic report.



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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights

Portugal (Macau)

1. At its 31st, 32nd and 33rd meetings, held on 20 and 31 November 1996, the Committee considered the second periodic report of Portugal relating to Macau concerning the rights covered by articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant (E/1990/6/Add.8), as well as the written replies to the additional questions drawn up by the pre-sessional working group (E/C.12/1995/LQ.10), and adopted, at its 54th meeting, held on 5 December 1996, the following concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its report and written replies to the list of issues, and for the open dialogue conducted between the Committee members and the large delegation from Macau.

3. The Committee notes that the report and the written replies to the list of issues have not been prepared in a manner which enable the Committee to adequately evaluate the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in Macau.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee appreciates the efforts being made by the Portuguese Government to secure from the Government of the People's Republic of China all possible guarantees regarding respect for the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Territory of Macau

after 1999. The Committee notes the enactment of article 40 of the Basic Law of the Macau Special Administration Region which prescribes that the precepts of the Covenant, which are applicable to Macau, will continue to apply and shall be implemented through legislation enacted by the Special Administrative Region of Macau. The Committee hopes that the ongoing discussions between the Portuguese Government and the Chinese Government through the Sino-Portuguese Joint Liaison Group will lead to a continuation of the reporting practice under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant beyond the year 1999.

5. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Covenant was published on 31 December 1992 in Macau's Official Gazette in both official languages (Portuguese and Chinese) and also that its contents have been disseminated in the Administrative Region.

6. The Committee notes that in January 1991, the Portuguese Government gave the Chinese language (Cantonese) an official status comparable to that of Portuguese.

7. The Committee welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State party to extend coverage of social security, in particular in the private sector, as stated in Decree-Law No. 58/93/M which came into force in January 1994.

C. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Covenant

8. The Committee notes that prevailing Chinese traditions, namely of avoiding direct confrontations and strikes in favour of personal or family ties, have not been conducive to the application of the laws concerning the right to collective bargaining and to strikes.

D. Principal subjects of concern

9. The Committee notes with concern that labour regulations are not enforced effectively in Macau, resulting in workers having to work under unfavourable and repressive conditions without access to legal recourse. Protective measures on working conditions and social security for non-resident workers are still lacking. Measures protecting the right to strike, the right to organize trade unions and the right to bargain collectively are also lacking.

10. The Committee is concerned that the majority of the population is not familiar with the judicial system of the Territory, and that insufficient measures have been adopted to ensure that the principles and the provisions of the Covenant are made widely known to the population.

11. The Committee, bearing in mind that China does not recognize dual nationality, expresses concern that residents of Macau, including civil servants who hold Portuguese passports, may not be able to stay in Macau after 1999.

12. The Committee notes with concern that no special programme aimed at helping the physically and mentally disabled to facilitate their access to employment, education and public facilities exists.

13. The Committee expresses concern that non-resident workers are not covered by the social security system.

14. Although Chinese constitute about 95 per cent of the population in Macau, the requirements for the civil service effectively exclude many persons of Chinese origin who cannot satisfy the criteria of being "local" because they lack a necessary language or other qualifications or for other reasons which cannot be overcome in a short period of time. The Committee, therefore, considers it necessary to incorporate persons of Chinese origin into the civil service in order to facilitate a smooth transmission of administration to China.

15. The Committee is further concerned that the territory does not have a procedure for the determination of minimum wages.

E. Suggestions and recommendations

16. The Committee takes note of the readiness of the State party to provide it with additional information in reply to the concerns expressed by it in the course of the discussion and recommends that in its replies the State party pay particular attention to the issue of family reunification and to the legislative provisions safeguarding the principles of the International Labour Organization Conventions No. 103 (Maternity Protection Convention) and No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention) and their practical applications.

17. The Committee recommends that appropriate measures be taken to effectively secure the economic, social and cultural rights of disabled persons, particularly through funding for special programmes aimed at helping the physically and mentally disabled to gain better access to employment, education and public facilities.

18. The Committee recommends, in view of the lack of sufficient information provided by the State party with respect to article 10 of the Covenant, that detailed information be provided on measures taken to implement the provisions of article 10. In that connection, the attention of the State party is drawn to the relevant parts of the Committee's revised guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by State parties.

19. The Committee urges the Portuguese Administration to take affirmative steps to facilitate the integration of persons of Chinese origin into the placement programme of the civil service.

20. The Committee urges the Portuguese Administration to promote appropriate policies which would facilitate the right to form labour unions, the right to engage in collective bargaining and the right to strike, so as to fill the gap between domestic law and the Covenant.

21. The Committee also urges the enactment of legislation on the right to social security so as to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Covenant, and recommends that the State party extend the coverage of social security to non-resident workers.

22. The Committee urges the Portuguese Administration to make more efforts to disseminate the Covenant within the civil society.

23. The Committee welcomes the statement by the State party that measures shall be taken to develop information and awareness programmes on the judicial system of the Territory and on the principles and provisions of the Covenant in the various languages spoken in Macau. Additionally, the Committee recommends that comprehensive human rights training be provided to all segments of the population, including law enforcement officers and all the persons involved in the administration of justice.

24. The Committee strongly urges the Portuguese Administration to take all necessary measures to ensure that the reports under the Covenant are submitted after 1999.

25. The Committee encourages the State party to disseminate widely the concluding observations adopted by the Committee following the consideration of the State party's second periodic report.



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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (HONG KONG)

1. The Committee considered, at its fifteenth session, the third periodic report submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant as applied in Hong Kong (E/1994/104/Add.10). The Committee considered this report at its 39th, 41st, 42nd and 44th meetings held on 26, 27 and 28 November 1996. After having considered the report, the Committee adopted at its 55th meeting, held on 6 December 1996, the following concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the report submitted by the State party was prepared in accordance with the Committee's guidelines. It welcomes the large and high-level delegation composed of representatives from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and from Hong Kong. The information submitted in the report and that provided by the delegation in reply to both written and oral questions enabled the Committee to obtain a broad view of the extent of the State party's compliance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee also expresses its appreciation for the written replies to its list of questions (E/C.12/Q/HON.1). The Committee notes with satisfaction that this information enabled it to engage in a constructive dialogue with the State party, particularly concerning the applicable law. However, it is

regretted that a number of the Committee's questions relating to reports of what actually happens in practice were not answered.

3. The Committee also welcomes the presence of a significant number of non-governmental organizations from Hong Kong. The information provided by these non-governmental organizations greatly assisted the Committee in its understanding of the human rights situation in Hong Kong.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee notes with satisfaction that both the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law affirm that the Covenant will continue to apply to Hong Kong after the resumption of sovereignty over the territory by the People's Republic of China as at 1 July 1997.

5. The Committee notes that the Government of Hong Kong has established conditions for a high level of economic prosperity.

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that non-governmental organizations, members of the Legislative Council and other interested parties have had an opportunity to contribute their comments on topics included in the report. The Committee lauds efforts made by the Hong Kong government to promote public awareness of the Covenant, and to make available to the public at large a substantial number of copies of the report, in English and Chinese, both in printed form and on the Internet.

7. The Committee welcomes the enactment of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, in July and August 1995, respectively. It also notes with interest the establishment of the Equal Opportunity Commission in May 1996.

8. The Committee notes that the housing policy of the government of Hong Kong endeavours to elaborate a long-term programme for public housing construction and to encourage private-sector housing construction so as to make adequate and affordable housing available to all residents of Hong Kong.

C. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Covenant

9. The Committee notes that the uncertainties arising from the resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China have clearly caused some difficulties for the Hong Kong government in undertaking measures to its maximum capacity towards the protection and promotion of the economic, social and cultural rights of its constituents.

10. The Committee notes that constraints arising from limited habitable land in Hong Kong and from the significant influx of immigrants into its territory may result in difficulties in implementing certain articles of the Covenant. However, it is also noted that Hong Kong has considerable resources at its disposal to overcome most problems posed by these obstacles.

11. The Committee notes that while the government of Hong Kong has established conditions for a high level of economic prosperity, while the latest figures show a Gross Domestic Product per capita in Hong Kong of US\$ 23,500, the fourth highest in the world, and while the Hong Kong

government has accommodated reserves, as of March 1996, of US\$ 20 billion. Hong Kong has one of the most uneven distributions of income in the world: 20 per cent of the population hold 50 per cent of the national wealth, but 250,000 households, i.e. 11 per cent of the population, live in absolute poverty and 850,000 citizens live below the poverty line.

D. Principal subjects of concern

12. The Committee deeply regrets that the recommendations expressed in its concluding observations in 1994 have largely been ignored by the Hong Kong government.

13. The Committee is concerned that the modalities for the continued submission of reports by Hong Kong after the resumption of sovereignty by the People's Republic of China are still at the stage of negotiation and have not been resolved to date.

14. The Committee expresses its disappointment that the principal subjects of concern listed in its concluding observations in 1994 remain unresolved. The Committee reiterates its serious concern on the following issues:

(a) The provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights continue to be excluded from the domestic law of Hong Kong, which already contains the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(b) The level of awareness among the judiciary of international human rights law in general and of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in particular remains low.

(c) The Hong Kong government continues to object to the establishment of a human rights commission;

(d) The number of split families continues to grow at an alarming rate;

(e) The treatment of Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong, particularly those who refuse repatriation to Viet Nam, is repressive and discriminatory;

(f) The "two-week rule" imposed upon foreign domestic helpers upon expiration of their contract continues to hinder their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

(g) The phenomenon of subhuman cage homes remains a blight;

(h) The level of social security payments available to the elderly does not allow them to enjoy their rights under the Covenant.

15. The Committee is concerned that the Sex Discrimination Ordinance does not protect those individuals whose right to work is violated by inappropriate account being taken of their private sex lives. The Committee further considers it a serious matter that women above the age of 30 suffer discrimination in employment.

16. The Committee regrets the "step-by-step" approach according to which legislation for the protection of vulnerable minorities is adopted primarily on the basis of public opinion surveys, that is, based on majority views.

17. The Committee is concerned that the principle of equal pay for work of equal value as elaborated in the non-binding Code of Practice of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance has not been reflected in Hong Kong labour law, thus giving rise to discrimination against women.

18. The Committee expresses its concern over the unfavourable status of Hong Kong residents who possess British Overseas residence, but who are not entitled to citizenship of any British territory after 1997 although they are allowed to reside in Hong Kong under Chinese law even if they are not Chinese citizens.

19. The Committee is concerned that in the field of employment, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance provides relatively insufficient remedies owing to the absence of provisions of reinstatement and full recovery compensation, while both of these remedies are foreseen in the Disability Discrimination Ordinance.

20. The Committee expresses its concern about the extent of unemployment or underemployment as a result of rapid economic restructuring. In this connection, the Committee is particularly concerned about the significant numbers of women who are thereby forced out of the labour force and must sometimes resort to precarious activities.

21. The Committee is concerned that Hong Kong labour legislation does not provide protection against unfair dismissal, nor does it provide for a limitation on hours of work, for a paid weekly rest period and compulsory overtime pay. This situation is a major hindrance to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work.

22. The Committee expresses its concern that trade union rights are unduly restricted in Hong Kong. In particular, the Committee is of the view that restrictions applied to affiliation with international trade union organizations, the prohibition on the formation of confederations of trade unions from different industries, as well as the legal right of employers to dismiss persons involved in strike activities, are incompatible with the Covenant.

23. The Committee expresses its deep concern that there is no comprehensive mandatory old-age social security scheme in Hong Kong and that approximately 60 per cent of the population is not protected by any public or private pension plan.

24. The Committee expresses its concern that large numbers of individuals and families who are eligible for comprehensive social security assistance (CSSA) do not apply for it, either because they are not aware of CSSA, because they fear the cultural stigma attached to the concept of welfare assistance, or because they are discouraged from applying by certain practices of the

authorities which are not in conformity with Hong Kong law, such as the requirement of children's consent before parents may receive CSSA benefits.

25. The Committee is concerned that CSSA recipients are not granted reimbursement for expenses for traditional medicine, given the fact that Hong Kong residents frequently use traditional medicine and that Hong Kong courts grant such reimbursements in civil liability actions.

26. The Committee reiterates its deep concern over the growing numbers of split families in Hong Kong. The Committee is of the view that the Hong Kong government has an obligation to ensure that the criteria applied in deciding on those eligible for legal migration into Hong Kong are consistent with the provisions of the Covenant.

27. The Committee expresses its concern at the absence of a holistic policy for the protection of children from all forms of abuse.

28. The Committee is deeply concerned that the standard of living of elderly singletons in the lowest 20 per cent income group who are not receiving CSSA is lower than that of the CSSA recipients. The Committee notes that many of these singletons live in substandard accommodation.

29. The Committee regrets that the Hong Kong government has not given any clear indication of a time-frame within which it expects to eradicate the deplorable phenomenon of cage homes. The Committee is particularly concerned over the inadequate conditions of the housing offered by the Hong Kong government to new immigrants from China, resulting in many of them living in deplorable conditions.

30. The Committee expresses its concern over the inadequate care and protection of the mentally ill and disabled in Hong Kong. In particular, the Committee notes with concern the apparent lack of initiative on the part of the Hong Kong government to undertake public education to combat discrimination against those with mental disabilities.

31. The Committee takes note with concern that, while the Hong Kong government has adopted an educational policy in relation to children of immigrant families from China, it has not undertaken sufficient efforts to ensure school placements for these children and to protect them from discrimination.

E. Suggestions and recommendations

32. In the light of the terms of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and of the recent practice of United Nations human rights treaty bodies, the Committee is of the firm view that, following the resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China, the People's Republic of China is under an obligation not only to ensure the enjoyment in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the rights guaranteed by the Covenant but also to submit reports pursuant to article 16 of the Covenant. The Committee therefore considers that it is competent to examine the implementation of the Covenant after 1 July 1997 on the basis of reports or such other material as

will be before the Committee, and reiterates its willingness to receive reports in respect of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from the People's Republic of China or, if the authorities so decide, directly from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Committee encourages all parties concerned to work out as soon as possible the modalities of submitting such reports and to inform the Committee of these modalities. The Committee is convinced, however, that the best way to resolve this issue would be for the People's Republic of China itself to become a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

33. The Committee urges the Hong Kong government to consider with the utmost care the Committee's suggestions and recommendations embodied in its concluding observations of 1994, as well as those that follow, and to undertake whatever relevant concrete measures may be necessary.

34. The Committee strongly urges the Hong Kong government to take every possible measure to develop a fair and open one-way permit approval mechanism in order to facilitate rapid family reunification.

35. The Committee recommends that the Government should undertake more effective measures for the retraining of those who have lost employment or are underemployed as a result of economic restructuring.

36. The Committee urges the amendment of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance to include provisions on reinstatement in employment as well as the removal of the current maximum amount for recovery compensation.

37. The Committee recommends that the Government lift repressive provisions and limitations in relation to trade union federations including the prohibition on establishing international affiliation.

38. The Committee recommends a review of government policy in relation to unfair dismissal, minimum wages, paid weekly rest time, maximum hours of work and overtime pay rates, with a view to bringing such policy into line with the government's obligations as set forth in the Covenant.

39. The Committee strongly recommends that the Hong Kong government should reconsider the adoption of a universal, comprehensive retirement protection scheme which seeks to ensure that disadvantaged groups are accorded full access to social security.

40. The Committee reiterates in the strongest possible terms its recommendation that the Hong Kong government should undertake, as a matter of high priority, the total eradication of cage homes.

41. The Committee urges the Hong Kong government to review the seven-year residence rule applied before providing housing to immigrant families from China, with a view to ensuring their right to adequate housing.

42. The Committee requests that, within 45 days, it receive a comprehensive response to its inquiry regarding three Vietnamese refugees who were denied medical and dental treatment, mainly for refusing to return voluntarily to Viet Nam.

43. The Committee strongly recommends that the Hong Kong government review the situation concerning persons with mental illness and disability and to ensure that their rights under the Covenant are fully protected.

44. The Committee recommends that measures to integrate children of immigrant families from China into the general education system be implemented with maximum possible attention from government authorities.

45. The Committee recommends that these concluding observations be made widely available in English and Chinese within Hong Kong and that copies be provided by the government to all members of the judiciary and to the relevant echelons of the public service.
